

Parent's & Camper's Handbook

“Experiencing...Christ, Creation, and Community through Camp and Retreat ministries”

A HUGE welcome to you from all of our Dakotas UM Camping staff!

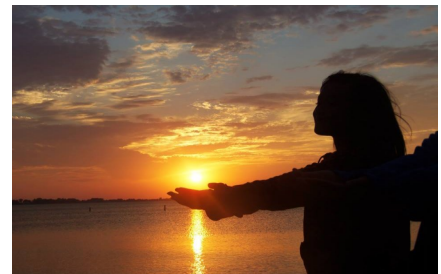
We are so glad you are planning on joining us at camp this summer! Whether you are coming to Lake Poinsett Camp & Living Waters Retreat Center, Storm Mountain Center, and/or Wesley Acres Camp and Retreat Center, you are in for the time of your life! Our caring staff is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the most special part of our camp– YOU! If you have been to a Dakotas UM Camp event before, you know the great time that is in store! If you have not been to camp before....get ready for a wonderful, fun, faith shaping, one-of-a-kind experience with us!

Dakotas UM Camping is proud to offer events for all age levels and stages of faith journeys. Each event is designed to help campers experience faith, fun, and fellowship in new and powerful ways! Dakotas UM Camping provides unforgettable summer experience in which campers can discover and explore exciting activities in a carefully supervised Christian environment.

Core Values:

We do this as we:

- Provide Sacred Places Apart
- Nurture Christian Faith and Discipleship
- Teach Creation Care and Appreciation
- Partner with United Methodist Churches and Agencies
- Extend Christian Hospitality and Community
- Develop Principled Spiritual Leaders
- Inspire and Equip Lives for Love and Justice



Outcomes: The Camping Ministry is a key partner within the Conference to help develop missional leaders and equip missional congregations. To that end the Camp and Retreat Ministry will focus on developing individuals to become their best self that God calls them to be. We will provide age appropriate opportunities for individuals to grow in these key outcomes:

- Sharing their faith
- Loving Everyone
- Serving Others
- Trusting God



Getting ready for camp, here are some things to get ready for a great experience!

- **A completed and signed “ Health History and Authorization Form” and “Release of Liability Waiver”** must be filled out for all campers prior to their event. The form can be filled in on-line, mailed to the camping office 2 weeks prior to the event, or brought with you to check-in. Information related to camper’s diet and other special accommodations need to be shared in advance of the first day of camp, so please indicate special needs on the your registration or contact camp prior to your event.
- **Please share ALL important information** related to your camper or yourself to allow our staff a chance to better meet your needs. We seek to provide the best possible experience and need your help in this effort. Please put this information on the Health History Form.
- There is **more information** to help in your preparations for camp in this flyer. Please read and understand the information shared here along with the information found in your Camp Welcome Letter. If you still have questions or concerns, contact your camp’s Site Director or the Dakotas UM Camping office (605-990-7780). Check out our website at www.dakcamps.org or email us at info@dakcamps.org.

Other Important Information for You and your Camper

Insurance Coverage

Dakotas United Methodist Camps provide a secondary accident insurance policy for all campers. Coverage is subject to the terms and conditions of the policy.

Camp Scholarship Information

To help off-set the costs of our camps, need-based camperships are available. Go to www.dakcamps.org. Click on the label “Scholarships” to apply or call the Dakotas Camping office 605-990-7780 or email info@dakcamps.org for more information.

Photo Permission

Photos and videos will be taken at camp and may be used by the Dakotas Annual Conference for camp promotions. If you would rather not have photos of you or your child used for this purpose, there is a statement you can answer on-line on the Camper Profile Sheet, or on the paper form of the “Release of Liability” form.

Safety & Transportation

Campers/Parents/Guardians are responsible both prior to and following the event for getting yourself or your camper to camp and home safely. This is also the same if you are meeting the bus to the event. In the case of some camps, this would be to a designated pick-up or drop-off point. Please follow the road signs and information in your camp event letter related to safety procedures while dropping-off or picking-up at camp. See your event letter for information related to directions, arrival and departure times, and dates. It is the responsibility of the Camp Site Director to advise each camper of any changes related to these times and locations. The event staff will go over any safety rules or procedures while at camp. In the event of immediate travel needs after check-in, these rules and procedures should be included in your camp’s welcome letter as well.

Illegal and Prohibited Items

Dakotas UM Camps do not allow the use of any illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks, firearms, or other weapons. Camp Site staff will advise if a specialized item (such as for fishing or archery) can be allowed. No camper under 18 is allowed to possess a knife. Please check with your Camp Site Director for information concerning appropriate usage of any specialized recreational equipment for land or water. All illegal substances are strictly banned from our sites.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Dakotas UM Camps are open to everyone. In the operation of these camps, no person, as defined by the program regulations, will be discriminated against because of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.

Campers with Disabilities

Our camping ministry welcomes person with disabilities and is working toward full inclusion of children, youth, and adults with disabilities in camps it sponsors. Off-site and wilderness based camps present more challenges, arrangements are made on individual basis.

Call home policy for campers

Campers are allowed to use the camp phones for emergencies only. If you have questions, concerns, or need to contact your camper, please feel free to contact the campsite at any time, 24 hours a day. Our staff is happy to assist you and will deliver your message to your campers as soon as possible.

Send home policy for campers

You will be contacted if:

- * Your child is exposed to a communicable disease.
- * Outside medical attention is necessary (e.g., if we transport your child to a hospital/ Dr. office)
- * Your child is having discipline problems that jeopardize the safety of others.

When a situation occurs where the camp feels it is necessary to send a camper home due to the above listed items, the camp staff will discuss the situation with the Site Director, and also with the parent or guardians when possible. Each situation is handled on an individual basis. The Site Director (or Director of Camps and Retreats in the absence of the Site Director) reserves the right to make a final decision should it be necessary. If it is determined that the camper is not able to stay, the parent(s) is(are) notified and a time arranged for the camper to be picked up. The camper is notified that he/she will be going home at least one hour prior to the arranged pick up time. The Director of Camps & Retreats is also notified when a camper is not able to stay for the full camp time.

Cell phone Policy for Campers

If a camper arrives with a cell phone, the camp staff will hold the cell phone until the end of camp. In the case of an emergency, the camper may receive permission to call home from a camp phone. There are cell phones allowed for Storm Mountain's Focus camp because that is a photography camp and they can use the camera function on the phone.

Insect Bites & Ticks

Mosquitos, flies, and other biting critters are abundant in the outdoors of our camps. For this reason we suggest that you send non-aerosol bug spray with your kids to camp.

Lyme's Disease

Lyme's Disease, carried by deer ticks, is a concern when you are outdoors. While we will do what we can to protect your child from deer ticks, it is ultimately your responsibility to be vigilant about possible signs once your child returns home. To find out more about this disease, including what to watch for, you can check the following websites.

South Dakota Department of Health -<https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/diseasefacts/lyme.aspx>

North Dakota Department of Health—<http://www.ndhealth.gov/disease/tickborne/Lyme%20Disease/lymedisease.htm>

In Case of Bad Weather

The safety of our camp attendees is important to us. In case of bad weather, the site director and staff will move campers and guests to the storm shelters on the premise. Please do not call the location as we want to keep the phone line available and take care of our campers. We will notify parents when appropriate.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. (not all bases apply to all programs.) Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

For more information, contact the Child and Adult Nutrition Services office at (605) 773-3413.

Dakotas United Methodist Camp Information

Dakotas United Methodist Camps

Keith Shew— Area Director of Camp & Retreat Ministry

Glenda Gerlach, Dakotas UM Camp Coordinator

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Lake Poinsett Camp

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Storm Mountain Center

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Wesley Acres Camp

Paul & Brenda Lint, Directors

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